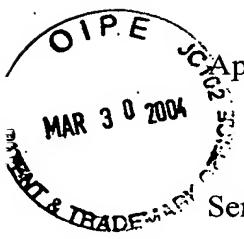


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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Applicants: Curtis D. Pfeiffer, Nile N. Frawley, Thomas L. Peters, Philip J. Savickas, David R. Albers, Steven J. Gluck, Lawrence W. Nicholson, and Jose B. Esquivel H.

Serial No.: 10/018,629

Group Art Unit: 1743 ✓

Filed: December 14, 2001

Examiner: Jan M. Ludlow

From: PCT/US00/19418, filed July 13, 2000

For: METHOD FOR CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL

Express Mail mailing Label No. EV331475296US	
Date: <u>March 30, 2004</u>	
<p>I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal service "Express Mail to Post Office Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, DC 20231</p>	
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<u>Melissa A. Wagner</u>	
DATE OF SIGNATURE	
<u>March 30, 2004</u>	

Hon. Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

RESPONSE C (AFTER FINAL)

This is a Response to the Final Office Action, mailed December 30, 2003 for which the shortened statutory response date is March 30, 2004. Please proceed with allowance of the Application in light of the following remarks and amendments.

Applicants believe that no fees are due for this Response, and that no fees are yet due for allowance and/or issuance of the Application. However, if Applicants are in error as to this opinion, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fee or amount to our Deposit Account No. 04-1512.

PRELIMINARY REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that all remarks presented below be considered and that, if possible, the final rejection of Claims 1-9 and 18-20 be reconsidered and that these Claims be found allowable. However, in the event that the present Response is found unpersuasive therefor, Applicants provide the following set of Claims in which Claims 1-9 and 18-20 are shown as canceled.